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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The airfield was located at the northern edge of the town of RIGA (24°5' E/56°58' N), west of the Dvina River. There was a cement plant south of the field and about 1.3 miles to the north the large Dvina River isle with two radio towers, which, allegedly, had been dismantled in KALININGRAD.
2. The airfield was about 5,000 feet square and had two crossed runways, each about 4,000 feet long. The hangars were still in ruins. A revolving searchlight was operated at night.
3. The following aircraft were stationed at the field:
 - a. Single-engine biplane (trainer with radial engine)
 - b. Single-engine fighters (in-line engine, landing gear outwardly retractable, three-bladed propeller, a square container, possibly an oil tank, located under the fuselage, aft of wings).
 - c. Single-engine high-wing monoplane (trainer, two-bladed propeller, rigid landing gear, in appearance similar to the Fieseler Storch).
 - d. Twin-engine transport aircraft of type Douglas DC 3.
 - e. Twin-engine bombers (wings set far to the rear, single rudder assembly, nose wheel).
4. The military planes were painted green; the fighters had red cowlings, and the Douglas DC-3 was painted silver.
5. Take-offs and landings were practiced with the trainers.

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25X1

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

Individual parachute jumps were also done from them. The fighters did flying in formations of 15 to 18 aircraft and practiced firing at towed air sleeves. The following formations were seen:

The twin-engine transport aircraft, both passenger and cargo planes, flew on schedule. The other transport aircraft made about 15 take-offs and landings every day. Parachute jumps were also observed over the field, up to five parachutists jumping from one twin-engine transport plane.

6. Most of the Soviet flying personnel were soldiers of long service wearing war decorations. Soviet Air Force officer candidates wearing blue epaulets with silver braids were being trained at the field. Polish and Rumanian air force officers in their national uniforms were also seen.

Comment:

25X1A

a. The airfield mentioned in the report is the RIGA-SPIILVE field.

b. From the information obtained so far it is inferred that the following units and installations are located at the RIGA-SPIILVE field:

- (1) A pilot school
- (2) A fighter unit
- (3) A transport unit
- (4) A reconnaissance unit
- (5) A commercial aviation station

The landing gear outwardly retractable [] is particularly noteworthy. The same feature was observed on the conventional fighter built in the Aircraft Plant No 31 up to 1947. The aircraft concerned presumably is a post-war version of the Yak-type. Besides the usual biplane trainers the Yak-14 was mentioned for the first time as a training plane. The twin-engine bombers probably were Boston-IIIs.

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